

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1082

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Paul Morris of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Paul Morris of Memphis is one such intrepid individual who, though his personal commitment to the pursuit of excellence, has helped improve the City of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morris currently renders sterling service as the president of the Downtown Memphis Commission, formerly the Center City Commission, a collection of concerned citizens who seek to improve Memphis's downtown area; and

WHEREAS, Paul Morris is a director and shareholder in the premier law firm of Martin, Tate, Morrow, and Marston; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Mr. Morris graduated *magna cum laude* from the Vanderbilt School of Engineering, where he majored in civil engineering and sought a minor in political philosophy. He earned his law degree from the Vanderbilt School of Law, where he served as an association editor of the *Law Review*; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from law school, Paul Morris clerked for the Honorable Julia Gibbons, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, before practicing in New York with O'Melveny and Myers. Upon his return to Tennessee in 2002, Mr. Morris again clerked for Judge Gibbons, who was at that time serving on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, before joining Martin, Tate, Morrow, and Marston in 2003; and

WHEREAS, a natural leader who is often sought for his insight, Mr. Morris is a past-president of the Board of Memphis Area Legal Services, stood as chairman of the board of the Center City Commission between 2007 and 2009, was appointed to Mayor A.C. Wharton's transition team, and was one of a number of attorneys asked by City Attorney Herman Morris to review and assess the operations of the City's Law Division; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Paul Morris was named a 2011 Power Player by *Memphis Business Quarterly*, has been twice named by *Memphis Magazine* to its Who's Who in Memphis list, was named on the Top 40 Under 40 list of business professionals and civic leaders by the *Memphis Business Journal*, has won several awards and honors for his *pro bono* work, was included in the 2011 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, and, in 2009, was chosen as a Rising Star by *Law and Politics*; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Morris is perhaps most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his wife, Mary Morris, and their son, Courtland; and

WHEREAS, Paul Morris is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize Paul Morris for his many contributions to his profession, to the City of Memphis and its residents, and to the State of Tennessee, applaud his many good works, and extend our best wishes for his every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.